

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 261053Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7853

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LE, US

SUBJ: CALL ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE

REF: BEIRUT 15530

1. HAD 25 MINUTES ALONE WITH FRANGIE AT 1700 HOURS (LOCAL) DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE. HE READ WITH GREAT CARE THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND SAID HE WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTFUL REMARKS.

2. MOST OF DISCUSSION INVOLVED BANALITIES. PRESIDENT WAS TIRED AND LOOKED DRAWN. RE CURRENT SITUATION I EXPRESSED OUR DISTRESS OF WHAT THE COUNTRY WAS GOING THROUGH AND HE NODDED. I MENTIONED MY TRIP TO AMMAN AND MY MEETING WITH ASST SECRETARY ATHERTON. I TOLD HIM THAT THE LATTER WISHED TO SEND HIS RESPECTFUL REGARDS AND HIS ARDENT HOPES THAT A SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND TO THE LEBANON'S CURRENT PROBLEMS. MY MEETING WITH ATHERTON CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF MY REPORTING TO THE ASST SECRETARY ON THE SITUATION HERE. I ALSO WAS RECEIVED BRIEFLY BY KING HUSSEIN.

3. NOTING THE RECENT TO AND FRO WITH DAMASCUS, I ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF HE THOUGHT THE SYRIANS WERE BEING HELPFUL. THE ONE BIT OF EMOTION THAT WAS

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APPARENT IN OUR MEETING WAS HIS ENTHUSIASTIC AND

POSITIVE RESPONSE.

I ALLUDED TO GALLAGHER AND DYKES AND HE
EXPRESSED HIS REGRET OVER THEIR CONTINUED
DETENTION.

5. LATTER PORTION OF MEETING DEVOTED TO FRIENDLY
EXCHANGES RE FAMILIES, ETC., AND IN CONCLUSION THE
PRESIDENT REQUESTED HIS WARM REGARDS BE TRANSMITTED
TO PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER.
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT15558
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0233
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751211/aaaaaiya.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 15530
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE
TAGS: PFOR, LE, US, (FRANGIE, SLEIMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006